

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 140515Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4755

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4793

NODIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, APER, LA, US

SUBJ: US-LAO RELATIONS

REF: A) VIENTIANE 4738

B) STATE 160796

REF A INDICATED THAT OUR THINKING FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY
THAT OF DEPARTMENT. HAVE THEREFORE NO DIFFICULTY WITH
MAIN POINTS REF B, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THESE COMMENTS:

A. PARA 1. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO DISCOVER
YOU ARE WAITING FOR OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLOSING OF
POST WHILE WE ARE WAITING FOR DEPARTMENT'S DECISION ON
PROTECTING POWER AND GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED IN EVENT
OF CLOSURE. OUR PROBLEM IN MAKING RECOMMENDATION IS
SIMPLY THIS: OVER PAST THREE MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN ANY
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OVER WHICH WE COULD HAVE SUSPENDED
RELATIONS; WE HAVE NOT AND INSTEAD HAVE ABSORBED THE
UNPLEASANTNESS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE NATIONAL OBJEC-
TIVE OF MAINTENANCE OF SMALL MISSION. NEVERTHELESS,
THERE IS ALWAYS THE MARGINAL INCIDENT WHICH ON TOP OF
ALL OTHERS MAY LEAD US TO RECOMMEND SUSPENSION.
SUCH AN INCIDENT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DEFINE IN
THE ABSTRACT. PERHAPS THE BEST THAT CAN BE SAID IS
THAT WE SHOULD SUSPEND WHEN IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE

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PGNU IS ACTING TO IMPAIR, OR PERMIT TO IMPAIR, THE

ACTUAL FUNCTIONING OF THE EMBASSY. THE OCCUPATION OF THE 2 COMPOUNDS OVER MANY MORE DAYS WILL BE SUCH AN EVENT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THE SEIZURE BY THE PGNU OF ALL STOCKS ON HAND AT THE GSO COMPOUND. A THIRD POSSIBILITY WOULD BE RIOTING BY RAL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE OVER THE CHANCERY GROUNDS OR THOSE ACROSS THE STREET. WHAT HAS ALWAYS CONCERNED US IS THAT THE MARGINAL EVENT MIGHT DEVELOP VERY FAST. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR US TO HAVE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED AND, IF POSSIBLE, HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN ADVANCE WITH THE PROTECTING POWER SINCE THERE WILL BE MUCH WORK TO BE DONE ON OUR BEHALF AFTER WE ARE GONE.

B. OUR THOUGHT ON THE EXTRACTION OF THE MISSION WAS SIMPLY TO LEAVE BY GROUPS ON COMMERCIAL AND DAO PLANES, PREFERABLY ON A SUNDAY, WITH THE CHARGE DELIVERING A NOTE ROUTINELY TO MFA ON HIS WAY TO AIRPORT WITH THE LAST GROUP.

C. IN SUM, WE CAN CONTINUE TO TOLERATE MUCH BUT WE FULLY CONCUR WITH DEPARTMENT THAT THERE ARE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT TO REMAIN. WE HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE TO THESE LIMITS OVER PAST TWO WEEKS AND VERY QUICKLY WE MAY BE BEYOND THEM THIS WEEK, IF MFA RESPONSE TO OCCUPATION OF COMPOUNDS IS NOT SATISFACTORY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE US WITH FLASH AUTHORIZATIONS WHEN MOMENT COMES.

D. PARA 2. FULLY CONCUR. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, MY HOPE WAS THAT I COULD REMAIN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO CLEAR UP MESS OF PAST. THIS HAS TAKEN LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED. (EVERYTHING TAKES LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED IN LAOS.) RIGHT NOW, WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS TO RETRIEVE TWO COMPOUNDS AND BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN THEM WITHOUT HINDRANCE; RESOLVE ISSUE OF PRIVATE AND EMBASSY GOODS LEFT ON USAID COMPOUNDS; INSURE CONTINUING EXPORT OF HHE AND POVS; AND RESOLVE RAL EMPLOYEES' DEMANDS. WITH ANY GOOD WILL ON PART OF PGNU, ALL THESE SHOULD BE DONE BY END OF JULY. THEREFORE, UNLESS A NEW CRISIS BREAKS OUT, I BELIEVE TOM
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CORCORAN MIGHT WELL COME OUT AS SOON AS CONVENIENT - I.E., END OF JULY. I BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP HIM TO HAVE BRIEF OVERLAP WITH ME.

E. PARA 3. STRANGELY, PGNU STILL DOES NOT HAVE A REAL UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. AID IS FINISHED. WITNESS MFA'S NOTE (VIENTIANE 4789). WITNESS ALSO A CONVERSATION I HAD AT DIPLOMATIC AFFIAR WITH MINISTER

OF HEALTH TIAO CHAISAVATH. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD
HELP RUN THE OB HOSPITALS, AS THEY HAD NO FUNDS.
I INTIMATED THAT HE SHOULD NOT REALLY COUNT ON IT;
AFTER ALL, HALF THE EMBASSY WAS BEING OCCUPIED STILL
AND EVENTS LAST THREE MONTHS HAD NOT MADE PROPITIOUS
CLIMATE FOR DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AID. HIS ANSWER
WAS THAT WE SHOULD SEPARATE HUMANITARIAN FROM POLI-
TICAL PROBLEMS. (CHAISAVATH IS PERHAPS THE MOST
REASONABLE, COMPETENT AND FRIENDLY OF THE MINISTERS;
HE IS OF COURSE NOT PL AND THEREFORE HIS INFLUENCE
IS LIMITED.) BUT DEPARTMENT IS RIGHT; FACT OF TERMINA-
TION OF AID WILL BECOME APPARENT OVER NEXT FEW DAYS
AND WEEKS. WHAT PGNU'S REACTION WILL BE TO THIS
DISCOVERY REMAINS THE LARGE OVERHANGING UNANSWERABLE
QUESTION.

F. PARA 4. FULLY CONCUR. VIENTIANE 4761 IS
OUR RECOMMENDATION.

G. PARA 5. WE HAVE TAKEN NO RPT NO ACTION
ON SUBJECT OF PROTECTING POWER. WE HAVE NOT RPT
NOT DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH ANYONE.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

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